

## Trip Report

Washington DC September 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 2019

We flew out of Unalaska on Friday the 13th and arrived in Washington DC on the 14th.

At 9:30 am on Monday we had our coordination breakfast with Brad Gilman Frank Kelty, David Gregory, Erin Reinders and others that showed were Tom Robinson and for a very short while Bill Shaishnikoff.

At 11:00 AM we, Erin, Brad, Frank, Dave and I traveled to Silver Springs to meet with Chris Oliver, Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service. We spoke with him about the importance of the surveys that desperately need to happen instead of being cut back. We assured him that we would push our congressional delegation further too see that they push to Fund NOAA and the surveys happen more often as the subsequent years are probably going to be very important to us that we know what the resource is doing. He said that NOAA plans to announce an unusual mortality event regarding the Ring Seals that are being found washed up on the beaches dead. He is uncertain of the effects on this fishing industry as of yet that these dead seals will have if any. He said that NOAA filed a notice of appeal on the Adak quota issue. He also indicated amendment 120 is stuck in the Department of Commerce awaiting clearance. It seems the cutbacks have caused a pile up of issues that need to be addressed and the amendment 120 is buried in there somewhere. Amendment 120 deals with the sideboards that were placed on the amendment 80 boats during the February and April meetings of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. he indicated that Alaska wasn't consuming a lot of time as it is a fairly well managed fishery. Areas where it is consuming NOAA's time are California on the numerous different salmon species and killer whales in Puget Sound among other West Coast issues. Overall our meeting with Chris Oliver went very well.

At 3:00 PM we met with Ian Chane Of the Army Corps of Engineers. Steve Kopecky the Chief of Pacific Ocean division regional interrogation team head an engagement that didn't allow him to meet with us. Also at the meeting were Tiffany Burroughs, Jase Ousley and Paul Clouse.

At roughly 4:15 PM we met with Chad Parker, assistant administrator telecommunications programs with the USDA rural development. We threw our support to any telecom company that can provide us with more affordable and reliable broadband service. He indicated that there are five separate programs which USDA provides funding for.

- 1) Telecom Infrastructure Program, which is funded at roughly \$700 million,
- 2) The Broadband Loan Program which is funded at \$100 million.
- 3) Community Connect Grant which is funded at \$30 million with a maximum grant amount of \$3 million.
- 4) Reconnect Program which was funded in 2018 at \$600 million and for 2019 in additional \$550 million.
- 5) Distance Learning Telemedicine Grant which is funded at \$30 million.

Tuesday September 17th

8:30 AM Daily strategy breakfast with Erin Rangers, Brad Gilman, Frank Kelty, David Gregory and me.

10 AM Meeting with Travis Black, Team Leader and Acting Director for Port Infrastructure Development Program. Also Fred Jones and Elaine Hull. We discussed Various grant in funding sources through MARAD. There are a few programs under America's marine highway program that are available to the City of Unalaska , however the funding amount is very competitive and not necessarily high enough to meet some of the requirements of the projects we are currently looking at but I think it would be prudent for us to pursue. Some of these will help us build some of the smaller things we are looking to build in The City of Unalaska.

Our noon meeting with Senator Dan Sullivan was rescheduled again.

1:15 PM We met with Kip Knudsen and Dottie Ochoa of Alaska's Governor's office in the Capital. We spoke to him about the importance of the FUDS sites that require attention on Unalaska island, surveys done by NOAA on our resource, the Captains Bay Road Paving and Infrastructure development and the dredging of the entrance to Unalaska. All of these projects seemed to be very interesting to him and his comment was that we seem to be a community that stands leaps and bounds ahead of what he is hearing out of the state of Alaska.

2:30 PM We met at Senator Lisa Murkowski's office attending were her staff members Chester Carson, Ann Robertson and Christina Nelson and of course Lisa Murkowski. We discussed with her again the importance of the NOAA surveys, the dredging of the entrance to Unalaska, the Captains Bay Road development, affordable broadband, alternative energy and remediation of the FUDS sites.

5:00 PM We met with Representative Don Young. We discussed the importance of the dredging project, Captains Bay Rd improvements, alternative energy and our support for NOAA in continued surveys of our fishery.

At 6:30 PM we met with Fogo de Chao for dinner. In attendance were Erin Reinders, Frank Kelty, Nancy Kelty, David Gregory, Patty Gregory, Bill Shaishnikoff, Vince Tutiaff, Natalie Cale, Chris Salts, Tom Robinson, Chris Price, Brad Gilman and myself. To me this is a historic trip for our community if all that we came to DC for works out. Not only is this Frank Kelty's last visit to Washington DC on behalf of the City of Unalaska, it is a new start for the changes that I truly believe will be happening for the betterment of our community.

Wednesday, September 18th

At 8:00 AM we traveled to the Coast Guard headquarters for a meeting with them at 9:00 AM. We met with Arctic Policy Coordinator, Zachary N. Schulman, Lt. Commander Amy McElroy and Lt. Commander Brad McNally. We touched on issues such as fisheries enforcement, The Arctic strategy report, polar code, a comparison between the old C130H and the newer C130J. We also, as in years past urged a more permanent presence in on Alaska with staggering the change outs of crews instead of changing them all at one time to address continuity in the personnel. We also talked about the new Ice Breakers that are being built for The Coast Guard. Again we reminded them of the value of our port, it is ice free, all weather and has deep water. That is important to future development in the Arctic. Overall it was a very good meeting, we discussed a few other things, but my notes are sketchy.

We were to meet senator Sullivan at 11:30 AM, noon, 12:30, not sure of the time when we got in there but we discussed the FUD's sites, a little bit on the geothermal, the importance of fish surveys in the Bering Sea And the importance of increasing NOAA's budget to accomplish more surveys. Senator Sullivan is excited about the opportunities the Unalaska provides to our nation.

At 2:30 PM we had a meeting with at Department of Energy Along with the Ounalashka Corporation and Chena Power to go over the geothermal project development. We met for roughly 2 hours and it was all good. In attendance from the Department of Energy were Sydney Schnier, Douglas Schultz, Jay Nathwani and a couple others that I didn't get their names or business cards. Participation from the City of Unalaska was Mayor Frank Kelty, Vice Mayor Dennis Robinson, Councilmember Dave Gregory, City Manager Erin Reinders and our Washington lobbyist Brad Gilman. Representing the Ounalashka Corporation were Chairman Vince Tutiakoff, CEO Chris Salts and OC legal counsel Natalie Cale. Representing Chena Power was Jim Whittaker, Dr. John Ziago, and Bruce??? We started by introductions to each of us that have been involved in the geothermal potential power project from about 1983 on. Mayor Frank Kelty and I gave a detailed history of the project and its mishaps that have caused the failure of the resource to be developed. As it stands now the Ounalashka Corporation has formed an LLC with Chena power to allow the project to move forward, a prior requirement for the Department of Energy. The geothermal property on Makushin Volcano is now wholly owned by the Ounalashka Corporation. The Department of Energy was needing to hear that all parties involved in this development, producers and users we're on board and wanting this project to move. The project is not based on whether the processors purchase power. If they don't initially purchased power and decide later to purchase power after the initial development of the resource, then it will be considerably more expensive. The plan is to move both hot water and electricity to the city. Side note; imagine a hot tub at every home in Unalaska. The resource is a world class resource, the participants are unified in their desire to see it developed and the Department of Energy appears to be excited about the development. As we spoke to each of our congressional delegations they are equally encouraged and excited about its development. I think the primary difference in developing the geothermal resource this time as opposed to the 12 failed attempts to develop it in the past is that we now have a new owner of the resource that looks at the long term. As a council member I have referred to the long-term is not 15 to 20 or 30 years but a time that will be enjoyed by my great grandchildren's great grandchildren.

Overall, we touched on all the City of Unalaska's priorities that we have for the federal government. Those include the Captains Bay Road and Utility

Improvement project, Environmental Remediation Support, Unalaska Bay entrance channel dredging support, OCS revenue sharing support, Reliable affordable high-speed Internet support, United States Coast Guard presence in Unalaska and alternative energies support. All our discussions were greeted with enthusiasm and support.